

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2004, issued in connection with the above-captioned patent application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-26 are pending. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 23, and 26 will be amended; claims 5-6, 13-14, 20, and 24-25 will be cancelled; and claim 27 will be added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeVito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,943). It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 12, 18, and 23 include features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by DeVito. For example, as represented by claim 1, in one embodiment, the invention includes a method for digitizing a document comprising optically scanning the document, forming and storing a digitized image file from the optically scanned document, optically recognizing under computer control characters in the optically scanned document, and forming and storing a text file of the optically recognized characters in the document, *wherein each digitized image file is correlated with a corresponding text file and wherein the digitized image file and text file have common file names and are distinguished by appropriate file extensions.* (emphasis added).

The Office Action states that DeVito discloses “data stored by some predetermined or user defined rules” (Office Action, page 3, citing DeVito, col. 2, ll. 16-29). To the contrary, DeVito at column 2 does not disclose, discuss, or intimate a method in which correlated text and digitized image files have common file names and are distinguished by appropriate file extensions.

DeVito at column 2 discloses a system and method for storing and retrieving information that requires the use of a text-image correspondence (TIC) table (DeVito at col. 2, ll. 16-17). The TIC table “is used to identify the coordinates [of] information corresponding to the search phrase” and “links the instances of phrases contained on the [text] document...with the specific locations of the phrases as contained in the image data set” (*id.* at col. 2, ll. 29-31 & col. 4, ll. 53-55). When the TIC table has linked the phrase that

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is being searched to a coordinate in an image document, "a display of the portion of the [image] document containing the search phrase is generated on a display device from the image data set" (id. at col. 5, ll. 41-44).

In contradistinction to the claimed invention, DeVito does not teach or suggest that that the digitized image file is correlated with a corresponding text file and that the digitized image file and text file have common file names and are distinguished by appropriate file extensions.

Applicant thus contends that independent claims 1, 12, 18, and 23, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by DeVito for the foregoing reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 27 has been added and claims a method of retrieving a digitized image file for a document, comprising storing digitized image files for plural printed documents in association with text files of the text characters in each document, the text files being generated by computer optical character recognition of the digitized image files or related image files, searching the text files to identify any having a first text string, searching the text files that have the first text string to identify any having a second text string, and providing access to the digitized image files corresponding to the text files identified as having the first and second text strings. Support for claim 27 is found throughout the specification and specifically at paragraphs 0038 and 0048.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-19, 21-23, and 26-27 are patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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